UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2001/160
25 April 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 19

ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 24 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to attach herewith the position of the Ethiopian observer delegation to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights on the statement delivered by the representative of the International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples on agenda item 19 entitled "Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights".

I should be grateful if this letter and the attachment* are circulated as an official document of the current session of the Commission under agenda item 19.

Accept, Mr. Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed): Fisseha YIMER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

GE.01-13569 (E)

Annex

The Ethiopian Delegation has found it necessary to respond to the unbalanced and biased statement by representative of the NGO, namely, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples, on the recent incidents in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This has been done under the devious cover of the item on Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the field of human rights.

The statement to say the least lacks elementary objectivity and is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Instead of exercising due caution in commenting on a highly complex situation, the representative of the NGO has regrettably chosen to echo the position of certain organisations, in particular those claiming to advance the cause of human rights, on the causes and consequences of the incidents in question.

The recent tragic situation in Addis Ababa was the result of instigation by anti-peace groups and organisations resulting in acts of arson, robbery and total chaos in parts of the city.

Consequently, since the need to maintain peace and security for the public at large was overwhelming, the involvement of the police to pacify the situation was absolutely urgent. Nevertheless, the representative of the NGO in question in apportioning blame for the incidents has conveniently chosen to echo the propaganda of certain organizations in Ethiopia who in all likelihood had a role in inciting the incidents in the first place for their own political objectives.

In any case, coming as it does from the NGO and its representative with their well-known politically motivated positions against the Ethiopian Government, the Ethiopian delegation is not at all surprised by this latest diatribe from the organization.

- - - - -